

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1-16, and canceled Claims 17, 18 and 19. Claims 1-16 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5 and 14 are independent claims.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the personal interview held January 12, 2005. The present response summarizes the agreement reached. At the interview a proposed amendment to the claims was presented for discussion. It was discussed that the squeegee head of the instant application included the wiper and the porous material, such as a sponge, for both cleaning with the sponge saturated with a cleaning solution, and wiping the cleaning solution off with the wiper blade. Arguments were advanced that *the structural arrangement of the claims was neither taught nor suggested by the applied prior art references. The Examiner indicated that further defining the squeegee head as having a wiper blade and a sponge or porous material, and the squeegee head moves as a unitary element between the first and second positions, rather than one part moving in one direction, and the other part moving in an opposite direction would serve to further clarify the claim language and define over the prior art. The Examiner's helpful suggestions are appreciated.

Claims 17-19 were held withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention, a method of cleaning. Accordingly, it is proposed herein that the instant claims be cancelled. However, it should be noted that under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121 Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

In the recent Office Action dated November 29, 2004 the Examiner objected to Claims 5-13 because of confusing claim language. Claims 1-5, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(***) as being unpatentable over Nichols in view of Burr et al. Claims 6-8, and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols in view of Burr et al., and further in view of Kenney et al., or Peterson et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended the claims in compliance with the Examiner's suggestions at the aforementioned interview. Specifically, the squeegee head is now defined as having a carrier, a wiper blade, and a porous material or sponge. Also, the wiper blade is set forth as being disposed on one side of the carrier, and the porous material or sponge is disposed an opposite side of the carrier. In addition, the claims have been further amended to recite that the squeegee head is reciprocally moved as a unit in a linear motion between the first and second positions. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, Claims 1-16, as amended, are devoid of the confusing language noted of record.

Applicant will advance arguments hereinbelow to illustrate the manner in which the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable from the cited and applied prior art. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The applied prior art reference to Nichols discloses a window cleaner apparatus having reciprocating member or rod, and a casing having an electrical operation device operatively connected to the member. The end of the member has a plurality of interchangeable heads for scrubbing, wiping and polishing a window. The reciprocating member operates on a pivoting scheme such that a scrubbing brush, or wiper blade or polishing chamois skin is reciprocated in a pendulum type motion at the end of the member. Nichols does not disclose a unitary squeegee head

having both the wiper blade and the porous material or sponge that is reciprocated as a unitary element between the first and second positions, linearly along the length of the shaft.

The applied prior art reference to Burr et al. discloses an electrical appliance for steam cleaning smooth surfaces such as windows. The appliance having an electrical connection to an electrical power supply, storage container for storing a supply of water, electrical heater for heating the supply of water to produce steam, and distributor for distributing the resulting steam to the outside of the appliance. The appliance also has a wiper blade for clearing the condensed water and loosened dirt and debris from the smooth surface after the application of steam thereto.

The applied prior art reference to Kenney et al. discloses coin/credit-card/debit-card and credit card activated windshield washer fluid dispensing system having a timer for regulating the amount of use of the system per the collected monetary activation.

The applied prior art reference to Peterson et al. discloses automotive cleaner dispensing system having, inter alia, recoiled hose for conserving storage space and preventing tangling/knotting of the hose.

Applicant submits that neither of the applied prior art references to Nichols, Burr et al., Kenney et al., and Peterson et al., taken alone or in combination as alleged by the Examiner, teach the unitary squeegee head having a carrier with a wiper blade on one side and the porous material, such as a sponge, on the opposite side of the wiper blade. Further, none of the references teach the linearly reciprocating motion of the squeegee head between a first and second position in a direction along the length of the shaft. In addition, there is no guidance nor motivation found in either of the applied prior art references that would have led one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive, obviously, at the unique construction of elements set forth in the instant claims. Without some other positive teaching to the contrary, aside from Applicant's own disclosure, it is respectfully submitted

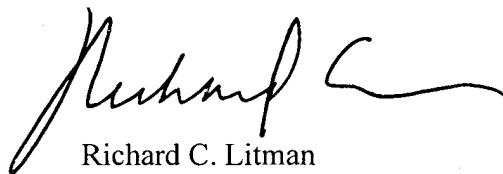
Application Serial No.: 10/615,024
Art Unit: 1744

Attorney Docket No. 22823.00
Confirmation No. 8724

that the claims of the present case, as amended, are allowable over the prior art of record. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard C. Litman
Registration No. 30,868
(703) 486-1000

RCL:DHT:wse